

# **NASA - LaRC SAFETY NEWSLETTER**

## **A PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICE OF SAFETY AND FACILITY ASSURANCE, OSEMA**

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### **LaRC Fire Extinguisher Training**

It is the policy of the Langley Research Center that our employees do not use portable fire extinguishers unless the employee has been properly trained in the use and handling of these extinguishers. If there are employees interested in this training, please have your Facility Safety Head or Facility Coordinator coordinate this with the Fire Department Dispatcher at Ext. 45600. This training may be included in the annual fire survey and drill for your facility.

### **Give Fingers a Helping Hand**

Your hands and fingers are irreplaceable tools. You use them for eating, driving, painting, hammering, typing, climbing, lifting - the list is almost endless. Because you do use them so often, your hands and fingers are prime targets for injury. Almost one in four work-related injuries happens to hands and fingers.

You can guard against these injuries by following three important guidelines:

1. Become aware of potential dangers.
2. Know and develop safe work habits.
3. Use the proper personal protective equipment.

At work, your hands and fingers can be exposed to such potential dangers as mechanical hazards, and contact with irritating substances.

Mechanical hazards are present wherever you incorrectly use machinery in the workplace. Cuts can occur when hard or sharp-edged objects create a shearing action. Any sharp pointed object can puncture flesh and possible lead to serious infection. Around rotating machinery, a shaft or blade can catch, cut or mangle. Wheels, rollers, or gears that spin inward create a nip point and can grab a finger or shirt sleeve and cause injury. Hands and fingers can also

be crushed or pinched severely by two solid objects coming together.

To avoid mechanical hazards, you should always be alert around machinery and keep hands and fingers away from moving parts. Never remove or tamper with safety devices such as guards. Disconnect power when adjusting, cleaning or repairing machinery. Use the Red Tag procedure to alert others to the status of the machine. Avoid wearing loose-fitting clothing, ties or jewelry when operating a machine. Always use the correct hand tool for the job.

During the past two months there have been several hand injuries at LaRC including three amputations. Remember, always think before starting any job that could potentially injure or maim your fingers.

To all of you who know how important it is to safeguard your hand and fingers by following common-sense safety procedures, we say - **THUMBS UP !**

### **PLAYGROUND AREA**

Summer is here and the playground area at the rear of Building 1222 (LaRC Activities Building) will be used by more people. Many of the visitors will be young children who frequently run from one area to another. Vehicle drivers are reminded that the speed limit behind the Activities (North Wright Street) is 10 miles per hour.